



Early Texas UFOs: The 1947 Project

by Jan Aldrich

The 1947 Project is a two-and-a-half year research effort into the UFO wave of 1947, which marked the beginning of the modern UFO era. Researcher Jan Aldrich of Connecticut obtained partial funding for his work through a grant from MUFON, the Fund for UFO Research, and the Center for UFO Studies. Since January 1994, he has screened more than 3,800 newspapers from around the world, as well as various archives, libraries, private collections, and first-hand accounts. His goal is to compile the data for a report to be released on the 50th anniversary of Kenneth Arnold's 1947 sighting. Though Jan's primary focus is 1947, he is also gathering reports from the years 1900 to 1965. The article that follows is an overview of the information gleaned from Texas sources. Jan Aldrich is spotlighted on page 7. —Editor

Project 1947, a study of the beginning of the modern UFO era, had as its original goal the examination of 1,000 North American and 400 foreign 1947 newspapers not previously screened for UFO reports. Secondary goals have included searching for reports appearing before Kenneth Arnold's June 24, 1947, sighting, which brought on the "flying saucer era," looking for signs of early official and scientific interest, and filling in the gaps in UFO press coverage of the 1940s and 50s.

To date, more than 3,800 newspapers have been screened—including approximately 150 in Texas—and hundreds of previously unknown UFO reports recovered.

The Modern Era Begins: The 1947 Wave

One of the first and biggest studies of UFOs (to include Texas) was Ted Bloecher's "Report of the UFO Wave of 1947," published in 1967. [Editor's note: See HS, issue 3, for an account of the 1897 "Great Texas Airship Mystery."] Bloecher's study spanned 17 days from June 24 to July 10, 1947, and uncovered more than 850 reports. Of these, 27 were from Texas. His later research indicated that far more newspaper reports remained to be studied.

According to a 1947 Associated Press article, which appeared in numerous papers, including the *Austin Statesman*, 50 UFO reports

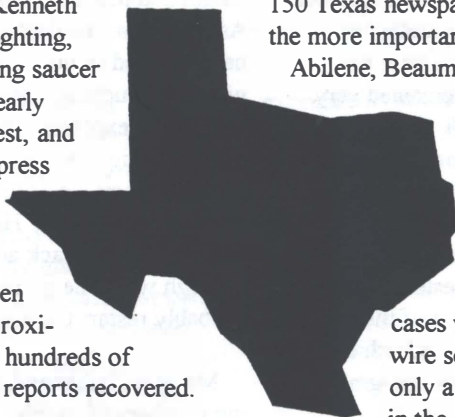
appeared in Texas papers between June 24 and July 7, 1947—the day traditionally attributed to the crash in Roswell, New Mexico, located less than 100 miles from the Texas border. My own research shows that during this period, at least 100 UFO reports appeared in more than 150 Texas newspapers, though not in some of the more important ones, for example, those in Abilene, Beaumont, Brownsville, Commerce, Fort Worth, and Galveston. And the 1947 wave in Texas continued long past July 7, until almost the end of the month.

Some of the best of these cases were carried by the national wire services, but unfortunately, only a few reports were recorded in the small local papers, such as this south Texas sighting:

The July 8, 1947, McAllen Valley Evening Monitor reported that Leslie Cameron, a student pilot flying at 4,000 feet, had seen a bright fast-moving object two or three miles southeast of Mission, Texas, on July 7 at 5:30 p.m. At about the same time, Leon Croche, on the ground, also reported a UFO in about the same location.

A number of other reports appeared from the area over the next few days, such as this one:

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Worth Repeating

A Digest of Ideas from Researchers, Enthusiasts, Buffs, Kooks, Skeptics, Debunkers, and Others

Must Have Been Really Worth Repeating

"In recent decades, however, many observers say that the use of government secrecy has become excessive. Secrecy is tantamount to power and, like power, lends itself to abuse. Behind the shield of secrecy, it is possible for an agency or service to avoid scrutiny and essentially to operate outside the law. Accountability to the taxpayers, and to the Congress, can conveniently be avoided."

—Kent Jeffrey, International Roswell Initiative, Bulletin #1, May 5, 1995 (first written in February/March)

"Secrecy, like power, lends itself to abuse. Behind the shield of secrecy, it is possible for an agency or service to avoid scrutiny and essentially to operate outside the law. Accountability to the tax payers and to the Congress can be conveniently avoided." —Don Berliner with Marie Galbraith and Antonio Huneus, "Unidentified Flying Objects Briefing Document: The Best Evidence," UFO Research Coalition, First Edition, 1995

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Deep-Throat

Unsubstantiated-but-Persistent Rumors From the UFO Grapevine

The rumor mill has run wild during the past few months...

On of the most unusual things **DT** has heard is that GM's *Aurora* model automobile has alien technology. Could that be because rumored-Aviary-member Kit Green works for GM?

Speaking of alien technology, the stuff seems to be turning up everywhere. An alleged piece (aren't they all?) of "**Roswell wreckage**" was given to the International UFO Museum and Research Center in Roswell. And this was not long after yet another piece of so-called wreckage was flashed by Houston HUFON member **Derrel Sims** at a recent HUFON meeting. Sims alleged that his was also "**Roswell wreckage**" and claimed that initial tests by unnamed "scientists" indicated that the obsidian-looking debris was identical in composition to that of an alleged "ocular implant" he had recovered from one abductee of the oft-referred-to "Houston mass abduction." Sims also claimed that the "scientists" were so excited by the unusual object and its apparent similarity to the so-called ocular implant that they had vowed to conduct the remaining tests without charge! Quite possibly, the apparent jubilation of said scientists may be a tad premature. **DT** has learned that according to the original analyst of the "ocular implant," the object was probably just the tip of a bobby pin or hairbrush bristle. (Do aliens have hair?)

Not one to miss out on hoopla, radio's **Art Bell** recently mentioned having received a box of "wreckage." **DT** wonders why all this debris is turning up now? Could it be after all these years—coincidentally—that people are just running across this stuff? Or could it be that the notoriety of the autopsy film hoax has given

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◆ Flash Back Roadblock on the El Paso Highway

The following interesting story—and without the author's name, that's really all it is—first appeared a year ago in Florida's National UFO News. An attempt to follow up through NUFON with the "prominent" Texas attorney who submitted the story was unsuccessful. I have included it anyway because of its relevance to the Project 1947 article and 1952 flap in West Texas and New Mexico and in hopes that some reader might corroborate the information. NUFON editor Art Hufford, who believes in the authenticity of the letter, granted Houston Sky permission to reprint the story. —Editor

The following is an excerpt from a letter sent to Ed Walters approximately two months ago by an extremely prominent Texas attorney. The letter was of such significance that Ed thought it should be published. Ed contacted the writer, who gave permission for us to reproduce a portion of it. —Editor, *National UFO News*, Gulf Breeze, Florida, July/Aug. '95

I first became interested in the UFO phenomenon when I had an experience in Southeastern New Mexico with my grandfather, Eugene Hinkle [*pseudonym*], when I was on a trip with him from Dallas to El Paso, Texas, in the fall of 1952. I was born in December 1943 and was eight years old at the time, just a few weeks before my ninth birthday. My grandfather, Mr. Hinkle, was born in 1895. He was a widower, and we were very close. I was born shortly after my grandmother's funeral while my father was away in World War II. My grandfather switched all of his attention to me after my grandmother's funeral, and we remained very, very close until his death in 1975.

Mr. Hinkle always had sinus trouble, and I inherited that from him. In the fall of 1952, we had many dust storms, and both of us were severely afflicted with sinus [problems] to the extent that my grandfather suggested that he take me to El Paso for a week out of the dusty climate of Dallas at the time so that both of us could get to feeling better. My second-grade teacher had moved to El Paso, and I looked forward to visiting with her. Mr. Hinkle was a traveling salesman for his own oil distributing company and, being a very gregarious personality, had many friends from Dallas to El Paso.

We stayed the first night of our trip in Odessa, Texas, which is about halfway to El Paso. On the second day, we continued our drive to El Paso. As you may be aware, the drive from Midland/Odessa to El Paso crosses the southeastern corner of New Mexico near Hobbs.

As we were crossing this southeastern corner of New Mexico in the early evening, we came upon a New Mexico highway patrol car pulled across the highway and approximately 10 cars

pulled off the road. My grandfather pulled off the road as well, and we got out of the car to go speak to the highway patrolman and the several people who were gathered around him.

My grandfather asked why we could not proceed, and the highway patrolman said that it was simply impossible to go forward. My grandfather said that he didn't understand, and the New Mexico highway patrolman said he would show us why. He took out his flashlight, turned it on, and proceeded to walk several paces down the highway to the west. After about 10 to 15 feet, his flashlight went off. He held it up by the tip of the flashlight so that we could see it clearly, showing that he did not have his finger on the on/off button. He then turned around and walked back toward us, and—after walking about only a yard or two—his flashlight went back on. He then held the flashlight out at arm's length and moved it west to east, west to east. As he did so, the flashlight went on and off while he continued to hold it by the tips of his fingers without [touching] the button.

He then explained that several cars farther down the highway had experienced a similar failure of their electrical systems, and the engines could not be started. He surmised that if we pushed the cars back across the invisible line through which he passed his flashlight, we could probably restart the automobiles.

My grandfather and I, along with the increasing numbers of people, gathered around the highway patrolman. As more cars pulled off the road, they asked if he had any idea what was causing the phenomenon. He stated that it could be connected with an aircraft that appeared to be parked on the highway about a mile farther on. He stated that we could see the aircraft from the next ridge, several hundred yards down the highway.

This highway, as I recall, was a two-lane highway with shoulders on both sides for a total width of about four lanes.

My grandfather and I, accompanied by about 15 other people, walked west down the highway for 100 yards or so, to the edge of a ridge

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where the highway began to drop down and from where [we] could see quite a distance. Approximately a mile down the highway below us, something was parked on the [road]. It was approximately three times the width of the highway and extended beyond the soft shoulders by about one to two lanes on each side. Therefore, the total width of the craft would have been about six lanes in width.

It was a clear night, and we could have seen the craft by starlight. There were extremely bright lights on the craft and around the craft as well. These were the brightest lights I had ever seen. They required me to squint, even from a distance of more than a mile. There appeared to be a great deal of activity around the underneath portion of the craft, as we could see movement in front of the lights. We watched for perhaps 15 minutes and discussed it, and then we all walked back to the highway patrolman's car and to where our cars were parked and stood around talking for perhaps as much as an hour.

The highway patrolman stated that he had called the army and that they were sending someone out from a nearby air force base to observe the phenomenon. After approximately an hour and a half, an army jeep arrived with a driver and a lieutenant in a khaki military uniform and walkie-talkie, the design of which you will probably be familiar with. He conferred for a short while with the highway patrolman, all the while talking on his walkie-talkie. It was now approaching 9:30 to 10 in the evening, and we had been stopped for, perhaps, two and a half hours. There were a great many more people congregated along the highway by this time. Obviously, no cars had come from the other direction.

Once again, a large group of us walked down the highway to the ridge, where we could see the craft parked in the middle of the [road]. A number of the people who accompanied us on this walk down the highway had arrived since our first view and had not yet seen the craft. As we stood talking and offering various explanations of how the craft could interfere with the electrical systems in our automobiles and otherwise, the bright lights around the craft began to turn off and the activity began to subside. As we watched over a period of, perhaps, 10 minutes, all the lights were turned off and all the activity around and underneath the craft ceased. The craft, thereafter, sat on the highway in the starlight clearly visible without squinting for, perhaps, five to 10 more minutes. As all of us (I would say more than 50 in

number by this time) watched, the craft began to rise off the highway very slowly and without any noise whatsoever. The craft rose to, perhaps, a height of 50 to 60 feet and turned slightly sideways at an upward angle and then exited the atmosphere and our vision within approximately three to five seconds. It did not accelerate to a higher speed; it simply accelerated almost instantaneously, very much like a stone shot from a sling shot. There was no noise whatsoever, and the craft went completely out of our vision within a matter of surprisingly few seconds.

I was nearly nine years old at the time of the occurrence and was an avid fan of Captain Video, Tom Corbett, Space Cadet, and other science fiction television programs at the time. With great excitement, I explained to my grandfather that what we had seen was a genuine flying saucer. My grandfather, who had been born in a dugout home in Indian territory in what is now Oklahoma in 1895, did not have a place for flying saucers from outer space in his view of the world. He told me that there was no such thing as flying saucers and that what we had witnessed was an experimental aircraft built by the United States air force, definitely not a flying saucer from outer space. Though I was only slightly less than nine years old, I explained to my grandfather that we did not have the scientific ability to do what we had just observed, either with regard to the ability to accelerate from a still position in seeming defiance of the laws of gravity or, to a more mundane extent, to interfere from a great distance with the functioning of all types of electrical equipment, batteries, and so forth.

Upon our return to Dallas, approximately a week and a half later, I described with great enthusiasm to my parents our observation of the unidentified flying object on the highway and its interference with the electrical systems of all of the automobiles and the patrolman's flashlight. My grandfather described the same phenomenon described by me, except that, of course, he laughed at my enthusiasm that I had seen a real flying saucer and simply explained the occurrence as the observation of a classified, new military aircraft. My parents had enough understanding of physics to realize, as I did, that our science did not have the ability to create the phenomenon which we had observed, either in 1952 or, for that matter, at the present time. ♦

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even more common the motive to give a hoax a whirl? FYI, so far, only one of the pieces mentioned (the one donated to the museum) has been examined by a named lab (see Miller Johnson's article in the April 1996 *New Mexico MUFON News* and the *MUFON Journal*). And so far, nothing alien has turned up. **DT** thinks that all the excitement about wreckage needs to be toned down. Nothing can really be called "wreckage" until scientific analysis has been completed and the lab involved is named. Without scientists and labs willing to go public, any so-called analysis is useless.

DT has learned that local MUFON member and *Houston Sky* contributor **Rebecca Schatte** recently obtained pieces of an **unusual object** (which its owner did *not* claim was part of the Roswell crash) at the recent Ozarks UFO Conference. The object came from a man who said it had fallen out of the sky. **DT** has seen photos of the object, and it is certainly unusual—metallic looking and resembling an elongated pine cone. The object is said to ring when tapped, indicating that it may be hollow metal. **DT** has gleaned from a FIDONET source that Rebecca's samples will soon undergo testing at a major university. **DT** will try to update you on the analysis.

HS editor **Gayle Nesom** claims to have caught ace photographer **Bob Shell** with his pants down, so to speak. During his talk at the Ozarks meeting, Bob showed a slide/photograph of a document that he claimed was more evidence proving the Santilli film. Gayle noticed that part of the document's 1947 date, critical to the significance of the document, had been cut off. All that showed was "June, 194 -." After the lecture, she asked the *Shutterbug* magazine editor whether he had taken the picture. When Bob said yes, she suggested he retake the

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photo before using it again since without the date, it was hard to accept it as evidence of anything. To his credit, Bob immediately brought out a photocopy of the document to prove he was not trying to misrepresent evidence. The full date—1947—was visible, according to Gayle. **DT** is encouraged to hear that there are folks paying attention to detail.

DT was not so encouraged, maybe even a little shocked, to learn that **Linda Howe** still supports the validity of **Santilli's** video. She seems to be one of the few researchers remaining on that side of the fence.

Air Force Captain James McAndrew, who performed most of the grunt work on the air force's response to the GAO's search for Roswell incident-related records, has been "reaching out and touching" ufologists. It is reported that McAndrew called **Roswell Declaration author Kent Jeffrey** recently to congratulate him on his "SCAM" article, which ran in the March 1996 *MUFON Journal*. The article went a long way toward debunking the **Santilli Controversial Autopsy Movie, SCAM** for short. McAndrew was so impressed, it is reported, that he asked Jeffrey if the air force could send the article out to all those calling his office inquiring about the film.

In a surprise twist to that story, a **DT** source has learned (via public message posted by **Ray Santilli** on the Compu-Serve MUFON Encounters Forum) that McAndrew had also called Santilli photographic analyst **Bob Shell** to tell him that part of the film was in fact real. McAndrew later denied he had ever made such a claim to **Bob Shell**. **DT** is not real sure who is playing the games here. (Maybe Bob will shed some light on this mystery?) Neither Santilli nor McAndrew could be called a reliable source, in this case. Santilli also claimed that McAndrew was helping investigate the film for President

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On July 8, also at 5:30 p.m., four occupants of a pleasure boat returning to Port Isabel from Padre Island watched as a silvery, shimmering object flashing in the sunlight slowly moved westward. As it headed over land, it paused briefly and then resumed flight and was lost from sight in the glare of the sun.

Newspapers from the 1947-era were not available at many of the Texas libraries I visited. Texas has some 957 libraries and newspaper repositories, with 5,400 different newspaper titles covering the last 160 years. (Texas Tech University in Lubbock has a surprisingly large UFO file.) Unfortunately, even with this many titles, some Texas papers published in 1947 no longer exist, and no records were saved.

The Unknown Wave, Spring 1950

The 1950 UFO wave could be called "The Unknown Wave." Although mentioned in Gerald Herald's *Is Another World Watching?* and Donald Keyhoe's *Flying Saucers Are Real*, both published in 1950, the extent of the wave and even the exact period are uncertain. In general, it was considered to have occurred in the spring, lasting from March to May, but reports have also been found for as early as January and February. The start of the Korean war in June drove most UFO coverage out of the papers, though some activity was also reported in the summer and fall. The main focus for this wave was in southern and western portions of the United States, including Texas. And as in any flap, there were plenty of IFOs—sightings of Venus, meteors, and of course,

high-altitude balloons thrown in for good measure.

The *Houston Press* (not related to the present-day *Houston Press*) published a number of interesting reports, as did papers in Lubbock, Amarillo, Fort Worth, and Austin, though not in San Antonio. Again, important newspapers in many cities have not yet been checked: El Paso, Laredo, Galveston, Beaumont, and Corpus Christi, to name a few. "Flying discs," as UFOs were called at the

—Article in *The Stanton Reporter*, 8/7/52

Bentley's Post Reward for Flying Saucer

"Since Flying Saucers have become so dangerous around Martin County lately, Bentley's of Stanton has posted a reward of ten dollars to anyone finding one and bringing it to them.

The reward, posted in Bentley's Furniture Store, reads as follows: 'Bentley's of Stanton will pay the sum of ten dollars (\$10) for an authentic Flying Saucer or Space Ship, delivered dead or alive to Bentley's of Stanton, Texas, to be placed on display in our store. No models accepted.'

time, reportedly landed three times in the Amarillo area, twice leaving physical traces. The following is a typical account: *In Lufkin on April 19, Jack Robertson observed a round flying object eight feet in diameter while driving about nine miles west of town. He stopped his car and got out for a better look. The object, which*

might be aluminum, gave off a dull red glow. The object hovered briefly about 20 feet over his head and then departed with a "whooshing roar" and shower of sparks from "a slot" underneath the object. Mr. Robertson felt a burning sensation, and the next day, his face was reddened like a sunburn. [Editor's note: See HS, issue 1, for a somewhat similar account, that of the 1980 Cash-Landrum incident.]

The Mega-Flap, 1952

The worldwide flap of 1952 has been well researched, and thus, I have not done an extensive search for 1952 press items. The United States Air Force's 1952 clipping file, for example, has nearly 60,000 nonduplicated articles dating just from April to September 1952. This huge set of reports, collected by a

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Sun to Set on Houston Sky

Houston Sky will cease regular publication after its second year. The last issue will be the 12th—August/September 1996. Paid subscribers will be accommodated to their satisfaction, either by a refund or the substitution of another newsletter. Details will appear in newsletter 11. Any future (sporadic) issues will be publicized through the *MUFON Journal* and Arcturus Books. At this point, about the only thing that could keep the *Sky* from fading would be a win in the Texas Lottery big enough for the editor to quit her regular job.

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clipping service for Project Blue Book, was gathered by Edward Ruppelt. The clippings were microfilmed on 30 rolls, each containing around 2,000 articles. Many were national wire service copy that reappeared in hundreds of newspapers. Unfortunately, instead of culling out the duplications, Project Blue Book members microfilmed every clipping. Yet, even with such an enormous collection, many items are missing. Instead of trying to fill in these gaps, at this point, I am more interested in finding people who might have scrapbooks or clipping collections from the period. [Editor's

note: A personal account from this flap and the Texas/New Mexico area is found on page 2.]

The Texnik Invasion,

November 1957

During November 1957, a large number of sightings were reported, especially in western Texas and New Mexico (and in Mexico, as some accounts by San Antonio's *La Prensa* indicate). In some of these cases, large glowing egg-shaped objects were seen to land or hover near the ground—objects variously nicknamed The Thing, The Egg, Whatnick (after Sputnik II, which had just been launched by the Soviet Union), and Texnik. A number of motorists reported engine and/or vehicle light failure when the object was encountered.

This flap was well investigated by civilian UFO groups, which were proliferating by the late 1950s. I have personally examined many case files for this period though there are many more accounts still to be found: the papers in El Paso, Laredo, Galveston, Brownsville, and Eagle Pass have not been thoroughly checked.

In one report, a Houston Press reporter interviewed by phone several West Texas witnesses, including Fort Worth geologist Leon English, who was driving nine miles north of Dumas at about 9:30 p.m. on November 3. He saw a bright green ball that looked like a neon light and appeared to travel almost straight down. It veered slightly to the east and then went out. English commented that he thought the object was headed in the direction of Levelland, where later, numerous other

sightings were reported.

An even earlier report from the *Fort Worth Star Telegram* tells of children who also saw an egg-shaped object heading west.

For what it's worth, November 1957 in Texas was marked by bad weather, an extremely bright Venus, and numerous early-day hoaxers.

Implications of the 1947 Project

My research has shown that most small weekly newspapers carry few if any UFO reports. But because accounts do occasionally appear, for

the early flaps especially, it often is profitable to check these papers. And although NICAP, APRO, and many other organizations had members nationwide during the 1950s, coverage did not become widespread until 1965, when several clipping services began collecting UFO reports. For this reason, news-

paper research for "the early years" promises to uncover new information that could prove useful for filling in the gaps of modern UFO history.

Jan Aldrich welcomes your participation in Project 1947. He is looking for newspaper clippings, scrapbooks, letters, first-hand reports, and official documents, as well as references and leads for further information. Contributions of early or rare UFO publications with early UFO reports would be helpful, as would be access to personal collections or the files of active or defunct UFO and Fortean organizations. Another untapped source of information is 1947 radio and TV newscasts and programs on UFOs. Most importantly, a great deal of research is still to be done in local libraries, historical societies, and newspaper archives. If you can assist Project 1947, contact Jan Aldrich at Project 1947, P.O. Box 391, Canterbury, CT 06331, or call him at (860) 546-9135. ♦

Next Issue—

One-of-a-Kind UFO Birdhouses!

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Clinton via White House science advisor Jack Gibbons.

Speaking of the **Compu-Serve MUFON Encounters** forum, **DT** has learned through the grapevine that the MUFON Section regulars are fairly rabid both in their support of SCAM and Ray Santilli and in their antipathy for anyone seeking open discussion. In fact, patrons guilty of *not* conforming with group viewpoints have sometimes been suspended by the forum's sysops. Compu-Serve's MUFON Encounters Forum is run by a private, for-profit company, Digital Planet, not by the Mutual UFO Network. However, the association of the MUFON name with the forum suggests that MUFON endorses the activities and attitudes of the group. **DT** wonders why MUFON, which receives no compensation from Digital Planet or CompuServe, allows this murky relationship to continue.

Disinformation seems to be rampant now that "**Aviary**" members **Condor** (reported to be Bob Collins) and **Falcon** (Richard Doty) are once again seeking out ufologist to sing their "tales" off. **DT** is at a loss as to what's going on. For readers not familiar with Falcon, Condor, and the Aviary, think back to a circa-1988 TV program "UFO Cover-up Live," or refer to Timothy Good's 1988 book, *Above Top Secret*.

Stop the presses! Sources say an alien space craft will land at **White Sands, New Mexico**, next year (1997) on April 24, possibly the 27th. **DT** has a tough time keeping up with all this disinformation—uhm, information. The source also reports that the landing will be an illusion created for special guests, specifically for the pope and the President. Supposedly, this illusion will be a "prequel" to another (staged?) Big Event scheduled for Roswell's 50th anniversary in July 1997.

Very confidential sources report that a second annual **UFO Hall of Shame** awards

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ceremony was held recently to induct—in absentia—the 1996 award recipients. Unfortunately, **DT** was unable to pry their names out of this source. The grand prize winner, however, was rumored to have been Ray Santilli.

It seems that British ufology (or some British ufologists) has sunk to a new low. **George Wingfield** was almost certainly given bogus information just so that he could then be discredited. Certain “researchers” in the UK are reported to be delighted with this news. **DT** is not sure whether these “researchers” actually took part in the plot. If they did, the slimy deed has to be one of the biggest wastes of time in recent UFO history. George admits that he later learned that some of the info was indeed bogus but that it neither confirmed nor disproved his theory that “Gang of Three” members Irving, Dickinson, and Lundberg are responsible for the Santilli video. Said gang member Robert Irving, an admitted circle faker, recently turned up on the CompuServe MUFON Encounters forum, where he was warmly welcomed. Reportedly, he has *not* strongly denied having participated in SCAM. Rumor also has it that a certain UFO investigator now has a good photo of one of the nurses from the so-called-but-as-yet-unaired “tent footage.” There is a good possibility that this image will soon be put on the Internet by its guardian to see whether anyone recognizes the face. Could this nurse be connected to the Gang of Three? Only time will tell.

Words of Wisdom from **DT**:

“An implant is not an implant, debris is not debris, physical evidence is not physical evidence until they are connected to an event, empirically, emphatically, and conclusively. Until they are each is simply an object or collection of objects. Or, in the words of one weary UFO researcher, ‘Let all claims be assumed false until proven true.’” ♦

UFO Notebook

by Bill Eatwell

Before beginning the fourth and final article on physicist Alan C. Holt’s hyperfield resonance theory, I have two items to discuss.

The “ISCNI Flash” (Vol. 2, No. 2, Part 2, April 1, 1996), published by Michael Lindemann, had a short article by physicist Dr. Hal Puthoff, which discusses the late Paul R. Hill and his research titled “Unconventional Flying Objects.” This article is excerpted from his book review submitted for publication in the *Journal of Scientific Exploration*. I reviewed Mr. Hill’s important scientific work last year, beginning with *Houston Sky* #3 (Feb./Mar. 1995) through #6. MUFON members and others interested in UFO-inspired propulsion and who have *Houston Sky* subscriptions, already know about Paul Hill’s extraordinary propulsion research. However, knowing of Dr. Puthoff’s interesting research in other areas of science, I highly recommend reading his book review when it is published.

The second item covers a local private researcher of advanced propulsion concepts. John M. Culver, a math teacher at Houston’s Eisenhower High School, presented his UFO-inspired hydromagnetic propulsion theory to attendees of the March 4 “VISIT” meeting in Clear Lake. A UFO’s glow, according to John, is the visual output resulting from a plasma-generated propulsion system. Using illustrated handouts and several unique visual aids, John described and demonstrated his theories on how a UFO might operate using this system.

One visual aid was a modified neon beverage sign. When viewed through John’s small hand-held spectrometer, the lighted neon sign demonstrated the various unseen layered frequencies of light emanating from its electrically charged gas. This neon device, according to John, illustrates how plasma-generated output from a glowing UFO might look.

The other aid was a small model of John’s conceptual magnitohydrodynamic (MHD)

disc-shaped aircraft, cut open to show its internal structure. John used the model to describe and illustrate his propulsion system in conjunction with the illustrations.

John Culver’s presentation was well received by the attendees. Several members of the audience, through well thought-out questions, also demonstrated their knowledge of advanced propulsion concepts. Although some major hurdles remain to be solved in John’s overall concept, as he freely acknowledges, I and several others attending the meeting believe his work definitely merits following. Never overlook the fact that the “quantum leap” breakthrough in advanced propulsion could easily occur from one person’s research, as well as from a large, well-financed organization.

In previous *Houston Sky* issues (#7, 8, and 9), I reviewed Alan Holt’s field resonance propulsion system, basically focusing on how it was conceived and how it theoretically functions. This issue is devoted to describing Alan’s published thoughts on the testing of his concept in the near future.

Alan envisions extensive laboratory and field testing of his concept at secure and uninhabited areas to meet safety requirements and to allow researchers the freedom to test and upgrade the various resonance propulsion spacecraft systems. As with current Shuttle launch procedures, chase planes and helicopters would be available for retrieval and tracking purposes. Along with advanced propulsion testing will be the evaluation of new and innovative materials which, in addition to being an integral part of the transport system, provide hypervelocity flight-impact protection, advanced thermal dissipation, and high-energy radiation protection. All of this testing is but a prelude to the real testing.

In Alan’s 1989 NASA paper titled “Space Station Freedom: Technology R&D and Test

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UFO LINGO

Theme & Variation

UFOdumb; var. of UFOdom

Difficult to define but you know it when you see it.
Reportedly first used in a mysterious communication from someone purporting to be the Chief, MAJIC Disinformation Branch.

“...here and there a touch of good grammar for picturesqueness.” —Mark Twain

Spotlight on Jan Aldrich

Jan Aldrich is a man on a mission. With 3,800 newspapers behind him and one year to go, one would think he could begin to relax. But with every new article uncovered, it seems he finds three more leads to pursue.

Project 1947, an ambitious newspaper research project, began in January 1994. A year later, Jan received a one-year support grant the coalition of MUFON, the Fund for UFO Research, and the Center for UFO Studies. His original aim, to study UFO newspaper reports for the 1947 flap, broadened quickly to include the years through 1965. His enormous effort will culminate in a book that he plans to publish by June 1997 for the 50th anniversary of Kenneth Arnold's sighting. Later, additional reports will cover the years 1900 to 1946, World War I, World War II and the Foo Fighters, and the 1950 wave.

So far, Jan's research has taken him to 32 states and Canadian provinces and approximately 200 libraries and archives. With the help of Barry Greenwood, Thomas Bullard, and many others, he has reviewed 3,800 newspapers, including 275 Canadian papers. Through libraries at Yale, Harvard, the Library of Congress, and the Center for Research Libraries (in Chicago), he has had access to nearly 200 foreign newspapers, including ones from China, Indonesia, Australia, and other countries.

Notebook, from page 6

Facility for the 21st Century," he writes, "Space Station Freedom is a versatile space laboratory which will accommodate and support a wide variety of advanced technology payload R&D and demonstration tests. The technology R&D will include advanced power and propulsion systems; laser and other advanced communication systems; new materials development and environmental testing; electronics space environment test; large space structure assembly; and advanced robotics."

In Alan's 1993 presentation at the Vision 21 Symposium on the "Space Station Technology Testbed, 2010 Deep Space Transport," he further described a deep space transport concept that would be developed, assembled, and tested on the space station by the year 2010. In the abstract, he wrote, "Key deep space transport R&D are described [which] would lead to the readiness certification of an advanced, reusable interplanetary transport capable of supporting eight crew members or more." R&D activities for development of the transport on the future space station are described by Alan as (1) experimental research on microgravity-assisted restructuring of micro-engineered materials for use in debris and radiation shielding and other protective systems; (2)

What has his research turned up? More data than he could hope to digest, the certainty that much more is available than he can ever check out—and the occasional unexpected gold mine. For example, in a 1950 Oakridge, Tennessee, newspaper, Jan found an interview with a man who had witnessed what he claimed was a 1948 saucer crash in Ohio. The man, who spoke out during a 1950 flap in the Oakridge area, was the first to possibly corroborate a rumor that has long existed about the Ohio incident.

Finds like this are rare but important, according to Jan. However, he says, anyone with time and interest can also delve into the plentiful newspaper accounts of those early years. In particular, he suggests that would-be researchers check newspapers and libraries for already-existing UFO clipping files, or go directly to the microfilm records for June/July '47, March/April '50, July/August '52, and November '57.

One important lesson he has learned in the past two years is that the assumptions and glib assertions people often make about what is going on are usually wrong. It is the preponderance of information—and the patterns and relationships revealed—that can lend weight to hypotheses and explanations about UFOs. ♦

—Gayle Nesom

exposure of microengineered materials to the space environment for passive and operational performance testing to develop maintenance and repair techniques; (3) support in the development, enhancement, and implementation of protective systems, data, and bioprocessing systems, and virtual reality and telepresence/kinetic processes; (4) performance testing on advanced nuclear power and propulsion; and (5) logistics support (maintenance and fuel) for the deep space transport and its crew.

As one can plainly see, Alan's long-range planning for the assembly and testing of advanced propulsion concepts is structured and focused. Much of Alan's research on his field resonance propulsion system is still proprietary, as indicated by the lack of specific design details in my review. However, I hope that this brief look into one man's quest to develop the next primary means of space travel has piqued the reader's interest into learning more about this unique area of propulsion science.

In closing, I strongly urge everyone to follow NASA and Alan C. Holt's professional progress as they carry us forward into space, planetary exploration, and beyond. ♦

HOUSTON SKY

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Jacques Vallee's *Fastwalker*

by Chuck Shramek

The latest Jacques Vallee book, *Fastwalker*, is wonderfully amazing. Written in collaboration with Tracy Torme, the book has something for everyone interested in the UFO field. *Fastwalker* is the term the defense people use to classify those odd craft that occasionally are picked up by spy satellites. It's used in this book to describe a very strange craft brought down by the government. Or did the aliens *let* the thing be captured? And are they *really* aliens from another planet?

If you liked the "X-Files" episode on April 12—the one featuring Charles Nelson Reilly as an author with the great cameo shot of Alex Trebek as a MIB, you'll love this book. It features a grey who turns out to be a rogue government guy in a latex suit. Yes, he even smokes cigarettes. You'll find the answer to the crop circle mystery and why most are found near Stonehenge. Either Vallee and Torme got together with the "X-Files" writers, or they are simply onto the same truths at the same time. I'm aware that the episode pissed off some who might have had their notions about the subject threatened. If you were one of these, this book may also rub you the wrong way.

Although *Fastwalker* is a novel, it is obviously based on Vallee's years of UFO research. It treats the subject from several vantage points that converge nicely into an ending that screams "Coming soon to a movie screen near you!"

The authors weave many of the themes we all know and love into a book—well, I hate to use the cliché, but—"that I just couldn't put down." There's the New Age con artist whose real goal is to raise lots of money, not consciousness—a mixture of George Van Tassel and Billy Meier. He claims to be in

psychic contact with Space Brother friends. And there's a good reason he hears voices in his head—those inner voices tell him to get ready for the moment the huge craft will land.

There are several ultra-secret government agencies that spend lots of time keeping everyone, including the President, baffled. These rogues are masters of disinformation. They command incredible technology—and pretty much control the media, letting out only the helpful information, creating totally bogus data when necessary. They even have the tools to hoax abductions. Their real and awesome power comes from access to the ultimate piece of data—the truth about UFOs. But how much do they really understand?

There's also the trashy TV tabloid segment producer who is used as a puppet by our rogues, manipulated to think he's onto the story of the millennium—which he may be. And then there's the love interest. (Hey, there had to be one—this is going to be a movie, remember?) She's vulnerable and, of course, an abductee. But who *really* abducted her? Aliens? Black-ops? Good guys? Bad? All of the above?

Also revealed is the *real* reason the Soviet Union fell apart and the Berlin Wall was torn down. Apparently, something we controlled really scared the Soviets.

Near the end, there are lots of terrific twists and turns until the ultimate question is—*possibly*—answered: What the hell is going on?

Chuck Shramek is the morning radio news broadcaster for Houston's "Stevens and Pruett" on Rock 101-KLOL and Robert Scorpio's The Box on 97.9. He specializes in fringe stories—UFOs, psychic phenomena, government coverups. Chuck recently broke the story of the Pasadena Triangle, which "is sort of like the Bermuda Triangle except that in the Pasadena Triangle, eggs don't fry properly, and waitresses are inexplicably rude."

Of Interest

Houston & Texas

VISIT (Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team)

Thursday, June 20, 6:30 PM
Freeman Memorial Library
16602 Diana Lane, Clear Lake City

HUFON (Houston UFO Network)

First Friday of the Month, 7 PM
Innova Building, 20 Greenway Plaza
(713) 597-2834

Elsewhere

MUFON 1996 UFO Symposium

"UFOs: A Scientific Enigma"
July 5-7, Greensboro, N. Carolina
Guzman, Styles, Mantle, Carpenter,
Sainio, Hopkins, Mack, Huneeus,
Maccabee

Holiday Inn Four Seasons. Make reservations early, and ask for the MUFON rates: (800) 242-6556.

The UFO Experience

Oct. 12-13, North Haven, Conn.
PO Box 2051, Cheshire, CT 06410
Holiday Inn in North Haven. Make your hotel reservations very early!
Topics: UFOs/Spontaneous Human Combustion (*Arnold*), Linda Cortille Case (*Hopkins*), UFOs/Sasquatch (*Lapseritis*), Wanderers and Star People (*Mandelker*), Abductions in the UK (*Mantle*), Nikola Tesla (*Seifer*), and Brown, Geremia, Holcomb, and Graves!

"Belief is desecrated when given to unproved and unquestioned statements for the solace and private pleasure of the believer... It is wrong always, everywhere, and for everyone, to believe anything upon insufficient evidence."

—William James

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